

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
February 11, 2016

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, Dave Sutherland and Selectperson Tony Archinski.

CALL TO ORDER:

The committee chair opened the February Open Space Committee meeting in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall at 6:30PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tony announced that Glen Edwards has donated \$505 to the committee that can be used as needed.

DECEMBER MINUTES

After review of the January 14th meeting minutes, Bill moved to accept as amended and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVITIES

- Bird Watching – The committee approved details of our bird watching event which will be held at the East Richardson parcel on Saturday, May 7th at 7AM. Bruce will follow up with the facilitator.
- Videotaping Activities – The committee agreed that these activities will be deferred until spring.
- Bruce has done some research on the Nickel Mine Conservation parcel and shared some of that history with us.
- Birthday Walk – The walk to commemorate Dracut's 315th birthday will be celebrated with a hike of Tranquility Trail at the Ogonowski Memorial Field. Karen made a flier that we will be sharing on social media. Karen has also agreed to cook for the occasion. Bruce will provide coffee and Dave will provide hot chocolate and tea. Bill has talked with Anna Corey who has tables and urns for the 4 coffee. The committee will walk the site on February 21st to ensure it remains passable.
- Yapp Farm walk-through – We discussed the trail which the committee walked this month. We agreed that we will need some planning time, but we agree that we will need a parking lot similar to the McNamara Way lot. We will start by asking the town engineer to map out the property lines. The trail itself has already been used by neighbors so marking the trail should not be complicated.
- Proprietors' Way – Tony reported that Mike Blatus has not been well and is unable to make dealing with this property a priority. Tony suggested that we approach the Ogonowskis about using their property instead. Tony also reported that he has spoken to Mike Buxton and as soon as the weather improves the DPW will make this a priority. Bill agreed to contact Jim Ogonowski and invite him to the Birthday Walk.

DISCUSSION

- Use of East Richardson Preserve – Bill reported that there was a lot of damage done during the Blizzard Run Obstacle Course where approximately 2K people attended.
- Facebook Page – Karen reported that she was unable to block people from commenting on pictures. She plans to monitor the site and will take anything inappropriate down. She agrees not to “tag” anyone. She also reported that we have 106 “likes.”
- 2016 Activities and Goals – Bruce reiterated that our top three goals are Proprietors’ Way, Yapp Farm and videotaping of trails. He noted that although these are our goals, but we will continue to work on other activities such as bird watching, as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- Conference – Bruce reported that he plans on attending the Annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference on April 2nd in Worcester, MA. Bruce invites others to attend with him.
- Composter – Karen reported that she found a way to compost dog waste. It is a barrel that gets buried with an exposed pipe. She suggested that this might be a good addition to Veteran’s Park and other town property where there are lots of dogs. It is called Big Dog Poop Composter. Bill notes that he already has a home-made version of that.
- Beaver Brook – Bruce reported that they are meeting simultaneously to ours. He also reported that he got an email from Betsy Ware and will forward that to us. There is some prospective land to be preserved.
- Requests – Bruce wonders if there is a better way for us to deal with requests for assistance with town parcels.

ADJOURN

- Bruce summarized the meeting and noted action items.
- Dave moved to adjourn tonight’s meeting. This motion was seconded by Colleen and passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:

All scheduled meetings will begin at 6:30 in the Dracut Town Hall

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Thursday, June 9, 2016

THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

February 11, 2016



Bruce Cote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



Marianne Blanchet

Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland